(iv) Prevention and control of air pollution.

(v) Measures for the development of non-conventional energy sources.

(vi) Measures for conservation of energy; and

(vii) Participation in international efforts to meet the situation.

Silent Valley Project in Kerala

137. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has informed the Kerala Government that it will not entertain any proposal for the revival of the Silent Valley project; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The Silent Valley is a unique eco-system rich in biological diversity and has been declared as a national park. It also forms the core zone of the Nilgiri biosphere reserve. In response to a representation made by the Society for Protection of Silent Valley, Calicut, against the intended revival of the Silent Valley Project, the State Government has, therefore, been advised in October, 1988 that the question of reviving the proposal does not arise.

Smuggling of Indian Currency of High Denomination

138. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Indian currency of high denomination is being smuggled out to facilitate for the smuggling of gold, etc.;

(b) if so, what is the appropriate value of the Indian currency involved in such smuggling; and

(c) what action has been taken to curb such activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Available reports and the seizure of the Indian currency effected by the Customs authorities during the last few yaers as shown in the table below indicate that Indian currency continues to be sensitive to smuggling High denomination notes like Rs. 500|- and Rs. 100|- continue to be smuggled out of the country as they are convertible in the curreny markets of Dubai, Singapore, Hong Kong etc. into Foreign Exchange. After such conversion, the amount is used for financing inward smuggling of contraband goods like gold, silver, synthetic textiles, watches etc.

	Value Rs. in crores		
	1986	*1987*	*1988*
Seizures of Indian Currency	5674	4.36	6.72

However, since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not possible to estimate the amount of Indian currency being smuggled into or out of the country at any particular time.

(c) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery particularly in the vulnerable areas of the land borders and the coastline and the International airports and seaports has been geared up. Intelligence is targetted against smugglers including

those involved in smuggling of Indian currency. Close co-operation is maintained between all the agencies concerned in the preservation and detection of smuggling including that of Indian currency.

Smuggling of Indian Tea to Pakistan

*139. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:

SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the smuggling of Indian tea to Pakistan has been constantly on the rise despite various measures taken by Government to check it;

(b) if so, what is the estimated quantity (with value) of the Indian tea being annually smuggled away to Pakistan;

(c) what according to the investigation, if any, are the reasons for failure of the measures taken so far to check such smuggling; and

(d) what steps are contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Available reports and seizures made indicate that the smuggling of Indian tea into Pakistan is on a negligible scale. However, since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not feasible to estimate the quantity of tea that is being smuggled annually into Pakistan.

(d) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country particularly in the vulnerable areas of the coastline and the land borders including land borders with Pakistan has been geared up. Close co-ordination is being maintained with all the agencies concerned in the prevention and detection of smuggling including the Border Security Force which is deployed on the Indo-Pakistan border.

F.C.N.R. deposits in Banks

*140. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of FCNR deposit accounts with the nationalised banks at present and the amount deposited under this head during the years 1986—88;

(b) what is the amount paid as interest on FCNR deposit so far; and

(c) what is the number of Non-Resident Indians/firms who have been provided loans by the nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALERIO): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No. of F.C.N.R. accounts as on 31-12-88 with nationalised banks :—

	No.	Amount	Outstanding balances
US $	102779	£	3777 Million
£ St	41669	£	464 million
DM	56	D.M.	66 million
Yen	85	Y	754 million